



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

NOV - 8 1995

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
ATTN: Neil S. Carns, President and
Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
REPORT 50-482/95-99

Enclosed for your review is the SALP report for the Wolf Creek Generating Station, covering the period April 10, 1994, through October 7, 1995. A public meeting to discuss this report with you and your staff is planned at the Wolf Creek Generating Station, Dwight D. Eisenhower Learning Center. The date and time of this meeting will be addressed in separate correspondence. During this meeting you are encouraged and expected to candidly comment on our report. Although this meeting is a forum between Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation and the NRC, it will be open to observation by members of the public and other interested parties.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the recommendations of the SALP Board and concur with the ratings and views. The Operations and Plant Support functional areas were assigned Category 1 ratings, reflecting superior safety performance. The Engineering and Maintenance areas were assigned Category 2 ratings, reflecting overall good safety performance. I am encouraged by the continued improvements in safety performance at Wolf Creek and the progress you made in regard to your performance enhancement objectives during the latter portion of the SALP period. Progress was evident in all aspects of the plant but was particularly evident in the areas of plant operations and plant support, where management oversight, accountability, and operator performance were all significantly improved.

The superior performance in the operations area represented a significant improvement and was marked by a strong safety focus; excellent operator performance and level of professionalism; a strong sense of plant ownership and leadership by operators; clear management support for operations; and management expectations being clearly communicated and understood. Areas needing continued improvement include communications between departments and operator attention to detail.

Safety performance in the maintenance area remained good with significant improvement initiatives commencing toward the end of the rating period. The improvement initiatives addressed the continuing maintenance challenges of providing sufficiently detailed work instructions and improving employee adherence to procedures. The reactor coolant system drain down event, that occurred during the refueling outage early in the assessment period, was

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viewed by NRC as a significant safety precursor. This event indicated the need for improved control over emergent work.

Safety performance in the engineering area remained good. Changes in the engineering organization, put into effect in the last third of the SALP period, have resulted in tangible improvements in performance and have set a course towards superior performance should the improvements be sustained.

Superior performance was observed in the plant support area, although the emergency preparedness area continued to exhibit weaknesses during the biennial exercise. Strong performance in radiological controls, security, fire protection, and housekeeping, with some improvements noted in emergency preparedness, resulted in the overall superior rating. Continued emphasis in the emergency preparedness area is warranted to ensure that corrective actions for identified problems are fully effective.

The quality and depth of your self-assessments, particularly in the maintenance, engineering, and plant support areas, were strong; however, the resulting corrective actions sometimes were not of a consistently high quality, sufficiently thorough, or vigorously implemented. We encourage your continued use of the self-assessment program as an effective catalyst to effect improvement in your activities.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the SALP report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, I would be pleased to discuss them with you. While no written response is required to the SALP report, if you wish, you may provide written comments within 30 days of the public SALP meeting.

Sincerely,



L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
NRC SALP Report 50-482/95-99

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

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cc w/enclosure:

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

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Burlington, Kansas 66839-1798

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE40)

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 Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, T-9E10)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
 SRIs at all RIV sites
 Carol Gordon
 SALP Program Manager, NRR/ILPB (2 copies)

The Chairman (O-16G15)
 Commissioner Rogers (O-16G15)
 J. Taylor, EDO (O-17G21)
 E. Adensam, NRR (O-13E3)
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DRA	N	RA	N						
SJCollins		LJCallan							
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*previously concurred

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